

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
**Senate Executive Committee**  
Minutes  
October 6, 2014

Present: Chair Roy Campbell, Abbas Aminmansour, Nicholas Burbules, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Prasanta Kalita, Calvin Lear, Melissa Madsen, Mary Mallory, Gay Miller, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto, Kevin Seymour, Joyce Tolliver

Absent: Kim Graber, William Maher

Guests: Chancellor Phyllis Wise, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ilesanmi Adesida, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, University Statutes and Senate Procedures Committee member and Parliamentarian H. George Friedman, Jr., Equal Opportunity and Inclusion Committee Chair Harry Hilton, Campus Faculty Association representative Richard Laugesen

Media: Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:12 pm on Monday, October 6, 2014 in 232 English Building, with Chair Campbell presiding.

**1. Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from September 15, 2014 were approved as amended.

**3. Chair's Remarks (R. Campbell)**

The CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) Faculty Governance Leadership Conference was held at Ohio State University (OSU) on September 24-26, 2014. One topic of interest was affordability and accessibility in higher education. OSU contracted a study to determine where the costs were increasing the most. Illinois will host the CIC Faculty Governance Leadership Conference in 2015. This is a chance to show other CIC institutions how the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus works. OSU also shared a job description for senators and what duties are expected of a senator in the OSU Senate. Campbell suggested that the Urbana Campus Senate create a similar document.

Chair Campbell discussed voting and the idea of electronic elections. Campbell suggested the use of iClickers at Senate meetings to more easily track votes and speed up the vote tallying process. There is also the faculty election that take place in each department and facilitated by the Office of the Senate. The elections take a fair amount of time for the Senate Office and the departments. Campbell suggested making the faculty departmental elections electronic as well. This would increase the efficiency of the election process and provide consistency. The governing documents will need to be reviewed and the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) will need to be involved to ensure the electronic procedure meets the rules outlined in the governing documents. The Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) facilitates the student elections through the Office of the Dean of Students.

**4. Chancellor's Remarks (P. Wise)**

Wise noted that there have been several active discussion and answer sessions held to discuss the Salaita hiring decision, including the September Senate meeting. Chancellor Wise and Provost Adesida have met with as many departments as possible to address any questions related to the Salaita hiring decision, but have not met with all the department heads within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) since it is so large.

Wise announced that Tami Bond, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, has received a 2014 MacArthur fellowship, commonly called a “genius grant.”

May Berenbaum, professor of entomology, has been awarded the National Medal of Science. The Medal is the nation’s highest honor for achievement and leadership in advancing the fields of science and technology.

Illinois hosts a total of six federally funded U.S. Department of Education Title VI Centers in international and area studies, each focusing on a different world region or issue.

The United States Olympic Committee announced an agreement designating the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a U.S. Paralympic Training Site.

**5. Update from USC on Proposed *University Statutes* Changes (N. Burbules)**

Burbules noted that there are a large number of changes, but many are changes to bring the *Statutes* up-to-date. The review process began in 2012 by the Board of Trustees (BOT) Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee. Many of the changes were initiated by members of the faculty.

Over the summer, a preliminary copy of the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* was sent to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP). There are very few changes from the preliminary version of the proposed amendments to the *Statutes*. One changed included adding clear rationale for the proposed changes.

The University Senates Conference (USC) officially received the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* from the BOT today. University Senates Conference (USC) has a *Statutes* and Governance Committee. USC will approve transmitting the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* to the three Campus Senates. The USC charge letter to the three Campus Senates notes a February 26, 2015 deadline for making recommendations for the proposed amendments to the *Statutes*. Friedman noted that as the BOT initiated the proposed amendments to the *Statutes*, this does not require two readings. Burbules noted that USC clustered the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* into eight groups. USC suggested that the Senates treat the eight groups as eight motions. Burbules felt that the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* did not contain overly controversial issues.

Burbules made a motion to include the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* on the October 20 Senate agenda. Hart seconded the motion and discussion followed.

Burbules suggested forwarding the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* to the USSP as soon as the Senate Office receives official communication from the USC. Burbules also suggested forwarding any proposed changes to Article II, Section 4 to the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). Friedman noted that the *Statutes* should not be amended lightly. The *Statutes* are a contract between the BOT and faculty. Time must be taken to thoroughly review the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* and any intended or unintended consequences. Friedman added that nothing prevents any committee from sending informational items to the full Senate and then submitting a proposal to be voted on at a future meeting.

Lear made a motion to amend the motion on the floor by clarifying that the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* be listed on the October 20 Senate agenda as an informational item only and that USSP will review and bring a proposal forward to the full Senate at a future meeting. The amendment was seconded and approved by voice.

The amended motion to include the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* as an informational item on the October 20 Senate agenda, to refer the proposed amendments to the *Statutes* to USSP before action is taken by the Senate, and to refer the section affecting FAC to FAC passed unanimously by voice.

**6. CIUS (Council of Illinois University Senates) Report and Statement of Concern (M. Madsen)**

Madsen attended the CIUS meeting on September 15, on behalf of Chair Campbell. The SUCSS (State University Civil Service System) was discussed at the meeting. By state law, all employees are civil service by default. Faculty have a blanket exception, but Academic Professionals (AP) are exempted on case by case basis. The SUCSS Merit Board attempted to call back exemption authority from universities in 2013. In the 2013 SUCSS audit conducted on the Urbana-Champaign campus, SUCSS found that 90% of the positions audited were improperly exempted. Madsen conveyed this information about SUCSS and the Urbana-Champaign campus to the other CIUS members. The CIUS members were supportive and in response wrote the CIUS Statement of Concern. Other CIUS member institutions have passed or are preparing to pass proposals and resolutions in support of the CIUS Statement of Concern in their Senates.

Madsen made a motion to endorse the CIUS Statement of Concern regarding the SUCSS and add the endorsement of the Statement to the October 20, 2014 Senate agenda. Tolliver seconded the motion, and discussion followed. Madsen will prepare a proposal on behalf of the SEC including the SEC's endorsement of the CIUS Statement of Concern and recommendation that the full Senate endorse the statement as well. The motion passed unanimously by voice.

**7. Setting of the Senate Agenda**

The October 20, 2014 Senate agenda was approved as amended.

**8. New Business**

None

**9. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information**

None

**10. Executive Session**

The discussion of records from previous closed sessions was postponed until the November 10, 2014 SEC meeting. This item will appear towards the beginning of the November 10 SEC agenda.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Jenny Roether  
Clerk of the Senate